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NEWS RELEASE

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Powerball Jackpot Update

- **North Dakota Lottery Sets Powerball Sales Record**

The estimated Powerball jackpot amount for Saturday, October 15, 2005 is \$290 million. The cash option amount is \$141.9 million. This current jackpot run began on August 13, 2005. Saturday's draw will be the 19th draw in this jackpot run.

Weekly Powerball sales in North Dakota for this run, compared to the one other run of over \$100 million this calendar year, were running somewhat behind until this past draw week. The North Dakota Lottery experienced record sales of \$637,133 for the draw week ending on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 -- this reflects a 4 percent increase over a previous record set in May 2005.

Total daily sales for Wednesday, October 12, 2005 were \$215,283.

- **First Big Jackpot Run since Game Changes**

Games changes that took effect August 28, 2005 in Powerball were designed to meet player expectations for larger, faster growing jackpots in the game. Today, Powerball jackpots start at a guaranteed \$15 million. Players choose five numbers from a pool of 55 numbers and another number - the Powerball - from a pool of 42. Plays cost \$1 and drawings are at 9:59 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- **Second Jackpot Run Of Over \$100 Million This Calendar Year**

There has been only one other Powerball jackpot run over \$100 million this calendar year. That jackpot was \$220.3 million and was won in Idaho on May, 28, 2005. If the jackpot is hit on Saturday, October 15, 2005, it would rank as the largest Powerball jackpot North Dakota players have played for, the 4th largest in Powerball history, and the 7th largest in the world.

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- **General Powerball Information**

Powerball tickets are currently sold in North Dakota, 26 other states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- **Largest Powerball Jackpots to Date**

1. \$314.9 million, Dec. 25, 2002. Claimed by: Jack Whittaker of Hurricane, W.Va.
2. \$295.7 million, July 29, 1998. Claimed by: The Lucky 13 in Columbus, Ohio.
3. \$295 million, Aug. 25, 2001. Claimed by: four winners who bought tickets in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and New Hampshire.

Since the North Dakota Lottery joined the Powerball game in March of 2004 more than \$5 million has been awarded in Powerball prizes to over 485,000 North Dakota winners.

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